

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INCORPORATED

479 Huntington Avenue  
Boston 15, Massachusetts

NEWSLETTER NUMBER FORTY-FOUR

December, 1961

COLLÈGE DE FRANCE  
Cabinet d'Égyptologie  
Inventaire B 10495





THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc., held at the Museum of Fine Arts on Wednesday, November 15, 1961, was attended in person by forty-four members, with an additional 89 represented by proxy, bringing the total to 133. The open sessions, at which papers were presented, were attended by an estimated 150 persons, some of whom expressed their interest by joining the Center.

The business meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by the President, Edward W. Forbes, to whose long leadership and wise counsel the Center has been greatly indebted from the time of its foundation. He presented the following report:

Report of the President

This is the eleventh Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt. At the first meeting, in 1950, thirty-four members were present out of a total membership of ninety-one. I am happy indeed to see before me many of that original group, as well as a number of new faces. I should like to thank these members who have contributed their time and knowledge toward making the program offered today a success, and I trust that the papers read here may be published for members who are unable to be present.

The American Research Center in Egypt has been an organization of slow growth. In slightly over a decade, as you will learn from the report of Professor Parker, the membership has hardly more than doubled. But I think that we can point with pride to the fact that, with very limited means, we have managed not only to survive but also in a modest way to fulfill our aim of encouraging and aiding American scholarship in the field of Egyptian studies.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick, we have at last been able to open an office in Cairo and to add to our personnel there a permanent secretary in the person of Mme. Labib Habachi, the wife of a well-known Egyptian archaeologist. We are well on the way toward receiving the official recognition of the Egyptian Government, as a non-profit cultural institution. The delicate negotiation to this end has been largely carried on by Nicholas Millet, Director of the Center in Cairo, who has contributed in many other ways toward aiding scholars working here at home and in Egypt. Not the least of his recent tasks has been the cataloguing and supervision of the packing of the objects from the treasure of Tutankhamun loaned by the Egyptian Government for exhibition in museums throughout the United States. He has, moreover, answered inquiries, guided members of the Center on visits to the monuments, helped American expeditions in obtaining equipment, and has himself participated in the Yale-Pennsylvania excavations in Nubia.

It is through the cooperation of the Bollingen Foundation that we have been



enabled during the past several years to maintain a Director in Cairo. As most of you know, that Foundation has provided two fellowships of \$5,000 annually for work in Egypt. These fellowships are open to any qualified American scholar for research in the fields of ancient and medieval archaeology, and the young men and women who have held them have represented the Center in Cairo. All other tasks of the Center have been done, largely on a volunteer basis, by a few devoted members, and all its expenses have been covered by membership dues and the income from private contributions. Thanks to such contributions, the Center now has a small capital fund, as yet greatly insufficient, however, to carry on our work and to fulfill our aim of establishing in Egypt an American Institute comparable to the American Academy in Rome or the American School at Athens. At the moment, certain public funds are available for cultural activities in Egypt. Our officers are endeavoring to obtain from these an allocation that should make our task easier. We need, among other things, if we are to continue and increase in usefulness, a full-time, well-paid -- and youthful -- administrator to serve in this country, aiding the officers in their work.

Permit me to end with an account of a minor, though significant, contribution made by the Center through its Director in Cairo. A short time ago, Mr. Millet came across a block from the famous scene of the expedition to Punt in Queen Hatshepsut's temple at Deir el Bahari. This block, in a private collection about to be dispersed, joins to the block representing the donkey that carried the fat Queen of Punt. With the authorization of the Executive Committee, Mr. Millet purchased the relief for presentation to the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, in order that it might once more take its place in the original scene. The sum involved was not great, but the gift has been offered as a symbol of our good-will to the Egyptian people and our desire to cooperate with their government.

#### Report of the Treasurer

The President's report was followed by that of the Treasurer, Dows Dunham, herewith given in full. It should be pointed out that in spite of steadily rising costs, the membership fees and interest from investments cover current expenses, with the exception of those of the Cairo office, which are paid through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Dimick. So far, it has not been necessary to draw on capital for running expenses, but the margin is too low for safety and it is highly desirable to increase the membership and hence the income accruing from dues. It is also desirable to increase the invested capital of the Center, if it is to meet the ever-increasing demands upon its services and to continue and expand its usefulness. In this connection it is interesting to note that under the wise trusteeship of Mr. Robert Baldwin, who handles the Center's invested funds without compensation, the market value of our securities has, at this writing, increased by around five thousand dollars.



# SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

## REGULAR ACCOUNT

Balance in bank, Sept. 30, 1960 (not including Bollingen Account)...\$ 1,420.71

### Receipts:

Dues .....	\$1,440.15	
Dividends from Investments..	1,183.91	
Donations .....	1,520.00	
	<u>\$4,144.06</u>	Total Receipts.....\$ 4,144.06

Transferred to Regular Acct. from Investment Acct. Apr. 14, 1961.....\$ 2,000.00

### Disbursements:

Honorarium Executive Secretary .....	\$ 600.00	
Honorarium Assistant Treasurer.....	480.00	
*Honorarium Director in Egypt.....	350.00	
Newsletter .....	578.00	
Postage, Telephone and Telegraph .....	160.83	
Corporation Filing Fee .....	5.00	
General Expenses (supplies, printing, etc.)..	183.37	
Contingencies.....	75.00	
Expenses 10th Anniversary .....	233.45	
	<u>\$ 2,665.65</u>	Total Expenses\$ 2,665.65

Transferred to Cairo for office expenses \$ 3,000.00 ..... 3,000.00

Dec. 16, 1960.....\$ 1,000.00

Feb. 27, 1961..... 1,000.00

Aug. 7, 1961..... 1,000.00

Receipts.....\$ 7,564.77

Expenses..... 5,665.65

Balance in Bank, Sept. 30, 1961 (not including Bollingen Account).. \$ 1,899.12

\* \$50.00 Honorarium for Director in Egypt (month of June) paid out of J. D. Cooney's donation in Egyptian pounds in Cairo and did not pass through the Center's Boston office.

## BOLLINGEN ACCOUNT

July 21, 1961 received Egyptological Fellowship Grant for 1961-1962...\$5,000.00

October 18, 1961 sent Nicholas Millet first payment on Grant..... 1,000.00

Balance in Bank.....\$4,000.00



### Report of the Membership Secretary

In contrast with last year, which showed a net gain of seventeen members, this year is marked by an increase of only two. At the close of the Membership Secretary's report, those present observed a moment of silence in honor of two charter members of the Center, Miss A. Marguerite Smith and Mr. David Magie, whose deaths had been reported prior to the closing of the books on September 30.

During the last year we lost two members due to death, four who resigned, and eleven who permitted their membership to lapse. Seventeen new members were admitted, and two lapsed members were reinstated. This is a net gain of two in membership. Our present total of 221 members is divided as follows:

Regular Members	145
Contributing Members	47
Sustaining Members	9
Associates	7
Fellow	---
Life	10
Honorary	3

### Election of Officers

The following slate of officers was presented to the membership, and it was unanimously voted that the Executive Secretary cast a single ballot for their election:

President:.....Edward W. Forbes

Administrative Vice-President:Wm. Stevenson Smith

Vice-Presidents:.....Frederick Foster  
Robert Woods Bliss  
John A. Wilson  
William K. Simpson

Honorary Vice-Presidents:.....William Phillips  
K.A.C. Creswell

Treasurer:.....Dows Dunham

Assistant Treasurer:.....Mary B. Cairns

Membership Secretary:.....Richard A. Parker

Executive Secretary:.....Elizabeth Riefstahl



Executive Committee

Edward W. Forbes, Chairman  
John D. Cooney  
Dows Dunham  
Frederick Foster  
Richard A. Parker  
Ashton Sanborn  
Martha H. B. Smith

Alternates: Bernard V. Bothmer  
Elizabeth Riefstahl  
William Kelly Simpson  
William Stevenson Smith

Trustees

For term expiring November 30, 1966..... Richard Ettinghausen  
John Goelet  
William C. Hayes  
George H. Hughes  
Amelia Peabody

To fill vacancy caused by resignation of William Phillips for term expiring  
November 30, 1965 .....Myron Bement Smith

In a discussion at the close of the business meeting, Dr. Henry G. Fischer of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a Trustee of the Center, brought up the question of future Annual Meetings, expressing hearty approval of a program of papers, but suggesting that the program be divided into sections, one for strictly scientific papers and a second for discussions of more general appeal. The Executive Committee will take his suggestion into consideration in arranging for future meetings.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:40 and was followed by the morning session of papers and brief talks. This was opened by Dr. Bernard V. Bothmer, who kindly filled in for Dr. George C. Miles of the American Numismatic Society, who was unavoidably detained in New York and unable to present the paper previously announced.

While it is hoped that we may be able to publish the papers offered by members in extenso, such publication will require some little time, so we offer here a brief summary of their contents.

Program of Papers

Morning Session

"Egyptian Art in the U.S.S.R. and in Greece"

Bernard V. Bothmer, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York



Dr. Bothmer presented a series of color slides of Egyptian objects in collections that are relatively little known. In addition to some extraordinarily fine sculptures, the Russian collections are rich in the minor arts, a charming selection from which were shown, and a new generation of young scholars is taking up Egyptian studies with enthusiasm. Dr. Bothmer gained access to some part of the Athens collection, which has for years been unavailable to visitors. It came as a surprise to many to learn that the famous inlaid bronze of Takushit in the National Museum at Athens is not only (as Maspero long ago recognized) more beautiful than the better-known Karomama at the Louvre, but is also larger -- in fact, one of the largest bronzes that has survived from pharaonic times, a full 67 centimeters in height.

"The Egyptian Tradition in Roman Imperial Portraiture of the Tetrarch Period (Ca. A. D. 290-310)."

Cornelius C. Vermeule, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

A marble head recently acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston (61.1136) and said to come from Rome can be identified from coins as a portrait of the Roman emperor Maximianus Herculeus. He ruled from 286 to his death in 310. The likeness is one of the few monumental examples in Mediterranean marble of imperial portraiture in the so-called "cubist" style found at the height of the Tetrarchy, the decade of Diocletian's abdication (305) and the ultimate triumph of Constantine the Great over Maxentius (312).

The other imperial portraits in this style were made in Egyptian porphyry and either exist there (Maximinus Daza in Cairo) or were exported westward (the Tetrarchs outside San Marco in Venice and their counterparts in the Vatican). The "cubist" style can be traced back in Romano-Egyptian art and the art of the eastern Mediterranean shore to the early part of the third century A.D. In the form in which Egyptian artists gave it to Rome circa A.D. 295, this conceptual, expressive treatment of the human form in simplified proportions recalls the local painting and sculpture of the Nile Valley and the Delta from circa A.D. 100 to 250.

"Studies in the Survival and Continuity of Pre-Muslim Traditions in Egyptian Islamic Art."

Ernst J. Grube, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, N. Y.

It is well recognized that Muslim art for at least the first four centuries of the Hijra relies almost everywhere in the newly conquered empire largely on local, that is in most parts Graeco-Roman traditions. In Egypt, however, such pre-Muslim traditions are kept alive for a much longer time. Here, better than in any other part of the Muslim world, we can study the fascinating process of the transformation of such traditional art forms into new forms of Muslim art,



for Egypt remained in closer and more intense contact with its past than almost any other country that was occupied by the Arabs, and moreover was saved from the invasion of the Mongols that changed Muslim art and culture elsewhere in the 13th century. Dr. Grube's was a short report on general preliminary investigations of certain aspects of Muslim art in Egypt that may eventually produce new insights into the special character of this art. Discussion and illustration of the so-called Zachariou Silks (6th to 10th century), of some fragments of miniature paintings (10th century?), of Fatimid lustre-painted pottery, woodcarvings and stone ornament (10th to 12th century), of Ayyubid and Mamluk ceramics, and finally the "Automata" miniatures (13th to 14th century) were used to demonstrate some of the most remarkable incidents of continuity of pre-Muslim and early Muslim art and culture in Egypt.

"The N'r'n-Troops at the Battle of Kadesh."

Alan R. Schulman, University Museum, Philadelphia

In the legends accompanying the reliefs of the Battle of Kadesh, a troop of soldiers is labeled, "The coming of the n'r'n-troops of Pharaoh, l.p.h., from the land of Amor." The timely arrival of these troops saved the day for Ramesses. Exactly who they were, however, has never been settled. A recent theory is that they were not part of any of the four ms'w that comprised the Egyptian forces but were a special detached column. However, a letter in Akkadian, written by Ramesses to Hattushili, sheds light on their identity. In this letter Ramesses recounts the events of the Battle of Kadesh, and it is clear from the context that there was no special detached column. The Pharaoh mentions the disposition of his forces, rendering the Egyptian ms' by the Akkadian KARAS.MES, one of which is specifically located in the land of Amurru (the Egyptian Amor). That these troops can have been none other than the n'r'n is confirmed, according to Dr. Schulman, by the pictorial evidence of the scene for which the Egyptian text forms the legend.

Afternoon Session

"The Low Price of Land in Ancient Egypt."

Klaus Baer, University of California, Berkeley, California

Dr. Baer pointed out that the limited data available from pre-Ptolemaic Egypt appear to indicate that farm land cost roughly as much as a year's crop from it. Enough examples exist to make it unlikely that this is the result of a chance preservation of documents dealing with poor land, particularly since the prices follow the general trends of other commodities and reflect inflation in the Twentieth Dynasty, a drastic fall in prices in the Third Intermediate Period, and recovery with the Saïtes. The contracts of Hepdjefa



indicate, if rather indirectly, a similarly low value for land in the Middle Kingdom. The following factors are probably involved: the high rates of interest available and the fact that purchasers in most cases leased their land to tenants, so that their income was only a fraction of the crop, out of which they may have had to pay taxes.

"Lets Talk Sense About Abu Simbel."

John Dimick, Washington, D.C.

With this provocative title, Mr. Dimick opened the discussion of the Nubian Salvage Program, to which the remainder of the afternoon session was devoted. He expressed himself as profoundly skeptical about the advisability or the ultimate success of the project for "jacking up" Abu Simbel to a height out of reach of the flood waters to be created by the new high dam, voicing the belief that if the money for the project came from the United States, the United States would be blamed for the possible failure of the venture. He discussed the merits of other methods that have been suggested for saving the temple, and recommended the construction of a model in plastic, to be erected at a site that would duplicate as closely as possible the present impressive situation of the temple. Such a model would prove all but indestructible and could be erected at a fraction of the expense involved in any of the more ambitious projects that have been suggested.

"Positive Aspects of Nubian Salvage."

J. O. Brew, Peabody Museum, Harvard University; Chairman of the United States National Committee for the Preservation of Nubian Antiquities

Professor Brew stressed the great importance of the salvage program, in which not only the very impressive rock-cut temple of Abu Simbel is involved, but also the less spectacular work of recording and preserving lesser monuments of ancient Egyptian, Graeco-Roman, Early Christian, and Islamic origin, and the investigation of hitherto unstudied sites from the prehistoric period into medieval times. This work is of great magnitude and is urgent for the accumulation and preservation of knowledge that is part of the world-heritage. It provides, moreover, a unique opportunity for training a new generation of scholars in the several fields of Egyptian studies.

"Nubian Salvage from the Egyptian Point of View."

Dr. Ahmed Fakhry, Cairo

The Center was greatly honored by the unexpected presence at its meeting of Dr. Ahmed Fakhry, the eminent Egyptologist and archaeologist who is an old friend of many members of the Center. Dr. Fakhry stressed the concern of the United



Arab Republic for the sites and monuments doomed to be flooded and expressed the gratitude of his country to those nations who are aiding in the gigantic task of salvage and recording. Members throughout the country may have an opportunity of hearing Dr. Fakhry speak on this and other subjects, for he will lecture at many places in the United States during the coming months.

"Nubian Temples."

Henry G. Fischer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Dr. Fischer showed magnificent color-slides of the principal Nubian temples, with comment on their historical and archaeological significance. His photographs, which included graphic illustrations of alternate plans for the rescue of Abu Simbel, made the Nubian landscape and the Nubian problem vivid to his auditors.

"Excavation in Nubia."

Professor William Kelly Simpson, Yale University, New Haven

A motion-picture film in color, taken in the course of the Yale University-Pennsylvania Museum excavations of the past season, was shown by Professor Simpson, who headed the expedition. This depicted the conditions under which American archaeologists in Nubia live and work, and in addition to the monuments, gave glimpses of the population that must be displaced from the villages of their ancestors and repatriated to new and we trust more fertile regions.

In addition to the above, Dr. Furio Jesi, Director of the International Archive of Ethnography and Prehistory, of Turin, Italy, offered the following paper, to be included by title:

"Egypt and Greece: Remarks Concerning the Impact of Egyptian Civilization on the Early Helladic World."

This paper seeks to establish an understanding of Helladic man's constant search to give an Egyptian form to his religious yearnings. It discusses gods and ritual in prehistoric Greece, Cyprus, and Egypt during the Third Millennium and the genesis of the Osiris legend, and deals with the relations between Egypt and Greece as evidenced in the pottery and stone industry.



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